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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : CA - Mr. McConaughy
THRU : CA - Mr. Osborn

DATE: April 22, 1955

file

FROM : CA - S. A. Comiskey SAC

SUBJECT: Chinese Communist Military Preparations Affecting Offshore Islands and Taiwan. No. 3 (4/18/55)

Air.

Aerial photographs taken on April 13 show the Chinese Communists are building an entirely new airfield at Shati, which is approximately 15 miles NNE of Quemoy and 130 miles from Matsu. The dimensions of the field indicate it will be large enough for sustained jet operations. GRC MND estimates the completion date at September 1955.

Aerial reconnaisance indicates relatively large numbers of aircraft in the Shanghai-Ningpo complex, at Luchiao and at Chuhsien. This does not indicate a build-up over previous estimates but confirms them.

Matsu.

CC shipping moving into the Ming River to Foochow proceeds along the shore under cover of coastal batteries during the day and takes advantage of some 20 navigational lights during the night. GRC naval units are trying to interdict coastal shipping but are not able to operate too close to shore owing to the presence of artillery and the fact that offshore waters are shallow and hazardous for fairly large ships. We have no estimates yet as to the success of GRC interdiction operations north of Matsu.

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FE:CA:SAComiskey/eh